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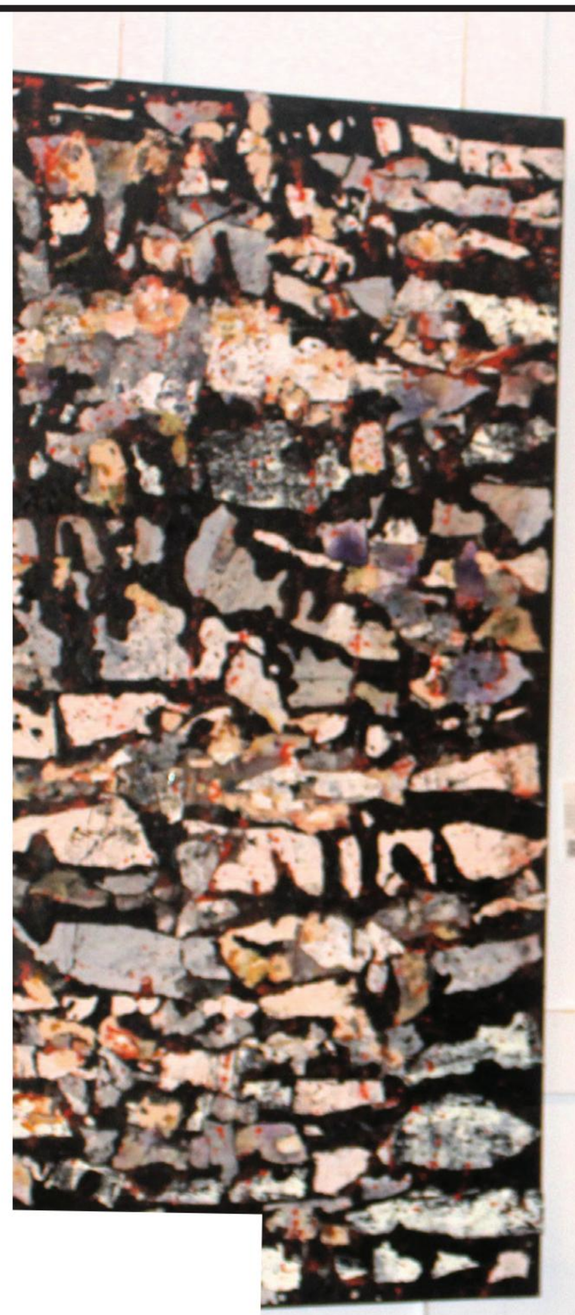

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— PAGES 10-11 —

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Benton Harbor Farmers Market announces new hours, extended season

WEEKLY MARKET ALSO SEEKS PRODUCE VENDORS FOR SEASON THAT BEGINS JUNE 3

The Benton Harbor Farmers Market will open an hour earlier each week and extend further into fall when it begins for the season June 3.

The Farmers Market will run 9 a.m.-3 p.m. every Wednesday through Oct. 21, extending its season by over a month to expand community access to fresh produce and support additional local vendors. The market takes place in the heart of Benton Harbor at Dwight P. Mitchell City Center Park, 127 E. Main St.

"Through the Benton Harbor Farmers Market, the Berrien County Health Department has spent the past 15 years investing in the health of the community by increasing access to affordable, locally-grown food," said Edward Kariuki, BCHD's farmers market coordinator. "This year, visitors and vendors can benefit even more from the market thanks to earlier hours and an extended season."

With the opening day drawing near, the Benton Harbor Farmers Market is seeking vendors, especially produce providers. Vendors are welcome to join week by week.

There are no vendor fees, but all must register by Saturday, May 30.

The Benton Harbor Farmers Market welcomes five vendor types:

- Agricultural: Vendors with fresh produce, including those who grow, raise or harvest products such as fruits, vegetables, herbs, dairy products, meat and poultry, honey, grains and other crops. Vendors are also welcome to sell flowers and houseplants.
- Value-added food: Vendors selling prepared foods made in a licensed facility or covered under cottage food laws.
- Artisans: Vendors who create and design handcrafted products such as jewelry or artwork.
- Activity volunteers: Organizations or individuals who lead hands-on activities at the market.
- Educators or information providers: Organizations or individuals who provide a service or demonstration of educational value.

Vendors will be given a 10-foot-by-10-foot space to display their goods. All vendors should plan to bring any needed equipment for their booth, including tents, tables, chairs, tablecloths, etc.

Interested vendors are encouraged to review the Benton Harbor Farmers Market Vendor Handbook and reach out to Edward Kariuki at ekariuki@bchdmi.org or 269-927-5637.

The Farmers Market serves as a place where community members, visitors and local vendors can come together, build relationships and promote healthy habits. In addition to cash, the market supports a variety of food assistance programs, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Double Up Food Bucks, Women, Infants and Children, Senior Project FRESH and Corewell Harvesting Health Together.

Learn more about the Benton Harbor Farmers Market and how to become a vendor at www.berriencounty.org. —

STAFF REPORTS

The road block is the way ...
Life does not block you by accident.
Growth is violent—Embrace pressure.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Apartment tower at train station nears completion

BY STAN MADDUX

MICHIGAN CITY - Construction of a 12-story luxury apartment building above the new South Shore Railroad commuter line train station in downtown Michigan City is nearly completed.

Clarence Hulse, Executive Director of the Economic Development Corporation Michigan City, said the timeline calls for construction to be completed by July 1 with tenants beginning to move in toward the end of August.

Hulse said reservations have already been made on 115 of the 220 apartments at what's called The Franklin at the 11th St. Station.

He said the hope is to have the remainder of the units filled by the end of the year.

The building will also have 5,600 square feet of retail and restaurant space on the main level and an over 500 space parking garage beside the tower for use by tenants and riders before and after stepping off the trains.

Other amenities include a heated swim/spa with an adjacent outdoor movie lounge, an outdoor rooftop sky lounge providing scenic views of Lake Michigan, courtyard grilling decks, fire pits, and a dog park.

Hulse said the 300 or so people living there will provide another economic boost to the ongoing revitalization of the downtown, which has had a lot of new businesses open in the past decade.

He credited faster travel times to and from Chicago by train from the double track completed between Michigan City and Gary last year for much of the noticeable increase in money developers are making in the downtown area and

elsewhere in the community.

Investors are banking the 30 minutes saved on one-way trips by train to each community will lead to significantly more people coming here to enjoy the city's lakefront along with other attractions like Blue Chip Casino and nearby Indiana Dunes National Park.

Another hope is that some people will choose to live here and commute to their jobs in Chicago.

"Now, people are looking at us as a place to come and invest their dollars. I never want to underestimate or undervalue what this has meant for Michigan City," he said.

Hulse said nearly $2 billion in capital investments were made in Michigan City over the past four years, a very sizable amount for a community with just over 30,000 residents.

"The city is really moving forward," he said.

Monthly rent starts at about $1,500.

According to the developers, Flaherty & Collins based in Indianapolis, about two-thirds of the apartments are one bedroom while 20 percent are two bedrooms with the rest being a combination of three bedroom and studio units.

The main level will be available for retail and other commercial establishments like a restaurant or coffee shop.

About 300 employees are expected to work at the apartment tower, which will generate over $800,000 in annual real estate taxes, officials said.

Hulse said 14 additional trips to Chicago have been scheduled during the week since the double track opened.

Diana Smith-Scott, owner of Lakefront Salon & Spa at 912 Franklin St., said she believes the apartments will bring more customers downtown, which features a number of trendy restaurants and shops.

"I think it's going to be a positive thing," she said.

Smith-Scott has operated her business for over 30 years on Franklin St. and sees a big difference in the vitality of downtown since revitalization efforts began over a decade ago.

"It's a lot better. There's a lot more traffic," she said.

Jonas Zimmerman, owner of J & K Flower Company at 906 Franklin St., said having that many new residents won't hurt business owners but he's not sure how much it will help them.

He said it just depends on how many tenants venture out instead of just simply getting off and on the trains before heading back to Chicago.

"I'm trying to stay optimistic and, hopefully, it helps," he said.

Michigan City resident Susan Borman said the apartments are a very nice addition to the many improvements made over the years in the community.

"I think it's great. I think it'll bring in more business," she said.

No one is so brave that he is not disturbed by something unexpected.
— Julius Caesar

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Local leaders discuss the area's pressing needs in the Episcopal Church of the Mediator

Rev. Darlene Kuhn gives a tour of the Episcopal Church of the Mediator's property

Leaders gather for 'Community Conversation' at Church of the Mediator

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A small, curated gathering of area leaders imagined how the Episcopal Church of the Mediator in Harbert can best serve the broader community for another 60 years - or more – by walking the building's property and meeting for a group discussion Monday, April 27.

The Community Conversation was part of Holy Ground for Whole Communities, which is an Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes initiative supported by a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., through its Thriving Congregation Initiative.

Dr. Jess Kidder, program manager for the Holy Ground for Whole Communities in the diocese, said part of the grant was writing in two separate partner organizations: Partners for Sacred Places, which is a nationally renowned organization that helps "faith communities revision their buildings for spaces to create more of a community asset" as well as Plainsong Farm, local experts in "ecology and land based worship and creating community around earth based activities."

"With those two together and the oversight of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes we're doing tremendous work throughout the lower peninsula," Kidder said.

Kidder said there are over 98 congregations, and the first cohort year has 15, with the Episcopal Church of the Mediator being the first congregation to hold the discussion.

"It's entirely experimental grant program, where we offer congregations the opportunity to dream big - without the fear of failure," she said.

Once the congregation completes the program, they're eligible for $7,000 of seed funding to "implement the action project of their choice to get the ball rolling." They're also given a "toolkit of resources" to help them "make decisions and network with their community in an iterative process."

The Episcopal Church of the Mediator's Reverend Darlene Kuhn said that the diocese receiving the $1.25 million grant will allow Episcopal churches over three years to participate.

"We're one of 15 right now who are doing this - trying to reach out to our communities for us to get a better understanding of what our resources are, what we have and how we work with our communities to meet needs in the community," she said.

A Holy Ground for Whole Communities Team from the Church of the Mediator underwent training for the program and Kidder did a land analysis of its grounds. Members traveled to Plainsong Farm in Rockford, Michigan, for more training.

Karen DiLossi, senior director of programs for Partners for Sacred Places, led a discussion on the area's unmet needs, which include housing for those who are in crisis and the need to help them move to a place of stability, transportation, affordability to live in the area, the area's poverty level and the need for a brick and mortar food pantry, in addition to the one at Neighbor by Neighbor in Union Pier, and help for mental health matters.

Leaders also discussed partnerships or organizations that the church might be able to connect with to better use and preserve its property and connect with the community.

Rev. Kuhn gave a tour of the facility, which includes a newer part that was built in 2010. Inside, there's a main sanctuary, with a sound system and the ability to video record services and School of American Music events, a chapel used for smaller services and a downstairs parish hall for gatherings.

Outside, there's a labyrinth in back, a fire pit, where sing-a-longs have been held and a prayer path cutting through trees.

"We want people to be able to come here and take some contemplative time – even if they don't pray as such this is still a beautiful space," Rev. Kuhn said.

Further out, there's a sculpture garden, with the first installation being a Bill Boyce sculpture, a Tiny Art Gallery, where people are invited to take art pieces and artists are invited to drop them off, and Free Little Library, and a pet cemetery.

Roger Gumm, who's part of the church's Holy Ground teams and Vestry, said that the work has been "empowering."

"The work with the committee has been really rewarding and very encouraging – the church is wonderful but if you can't take it outside into the community that's where we get the ultimate part of that," he said.

New Buffalo officially home to team in MLB Feeder League

BY STAN MADDUX

All of the legal steps have now been taken for New Buffalo to become home to a team of high-level college players with dreams of making it to the major leagues.

The New Buffalo School Board on April 27 unanimously approved a 10-year lease for the team to play 30 games or more at the new high school baseball field during the summer beginning in late May of next year.

The field will resemble a small minor league baseball park once lights and other amenities such as grandstand seating at affordable prices for about 600 people are added at the expense of the team as required under the lease.

People will also be welcome to stand along the sidelines outside the playing field or bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit in on the grass to watch the games.

"I can't think of a better thing for kids to do in this community in the summer than go see a baseball game. Right? Have a hot dog," said board member Vanessa Thun.

The goal is for the summer league team, which doesn't have a name yet, to start playing games in 2027.

Kevin Ebbeson, a volunteer youth baseball coach with three children in the school system, also reflected excitement in urging the lease be approved.

"It's fun to have a team in our town. This will elevate New Buffalo's profile and give our kids and families something special to look forward to every summer," he said.

The team founded by New Buffalo residents Brian Williams and Tom Rowland will compete in the Northwoods League, which has had more than 400 players make it to the major leagues since established over 30 years ago.

The league billed as the most talented summer league in the world has 26 teams from Michigan and other states like Indiana, Wisconsin and as far away as North Dakota and Canada.

The other teams in the league from Michigan are in Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Traverse City and Royal Oak.

The team emerged after Williams, a major league baseball scout for the Texas Rangers, approached school officials about his interest in helping make the new high school baseball field with artificial turf in the infield into a facility capable of hosting games at a higher competitive level.

The teams consist of players in college playing league games during the summer to stay sharp and get better to improve their odds of being drafted by major league teams

"We really want this to be a treasure for the whole community, really the whole region," he said.

Williams said there should be enough parking at first with more than 360 spots that currently exist at the high school and football field along with nearby Oselka Park.

There's room to add more seating as word spreads about the team, which could tap into the city's strong base of tourists and second homeowners primarily from the Chicago area.

Police officers will also be present to help ensure a family-friendly atmosphere.

"We're going to have traffic enforcement. We're going to have public safety officers at every game," he said.

Williams said the team will operate as a not-for-profit with proceeds going to the school district and local charitable organizations.

He said the team will have full-time and part-time employees doing tasks ranging from working concessions, public relations and operating television cameras for the games, which will be live-streamed.

Williams said some of the jobs will go to students to gain experience in career paths they might choose to further study or pursue in college.

The high school team will have rights to the field if their games late in the regular season or post season conflict with league games on the schedule.

"That is definitely a priority in the lease and how we're going to run the operation as well," he said.

The league has also agreed to host youth camps in New Buffalo during the season to teach young players about fundamentals and other aspects of the game.

Former players in the league include future Hall of Fame pitcher Max Scherzer, slugger Pete Alonzo and former White Sox all-star pitcher Chris Sale, who now plays for the Atlanta Braves.

Board member Stephen Donnelly abstained from the voting due to him acquiring five-percent ownership of the team.

SCHOLASTICS

School board hears of retirement of high school principal Ripley

APPROVES BIDS FOR DISTRICTWIDE PROJECTS

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area School Board of Education heard of the resignation, for retirement purposes, of New Buffalo High School Principal Tracy Ripley, effective June 30, at their Monday, April 27, meeting.

In her letter, Ripley said that she's spent 25 years in education, which included 17 as a teacher at New Buffalo and four as the high school principal, and feels it's the "right time to transition into the next chapter of my life in which I will be spending more time with my family."

"We are in a great place and worked tremendously hard to be a top ranked high school in the State of Michigan.... My time at New Buffalo Area Schools as a teacher, coach, and principal have created some of the most important memories that I will cherish for my lifetime," Ripley's letter stated.

Board members also accepted the resignations of middle school teacher Jennifer Bauer, effective June 10, after 38 years in teaching; Traci Spencer, effective June 9, after 20 years; and Gael Rosenbaum.

Superintendent Adam Bowen said that "these are some integral pieces to our puzzle."

"We have a very veteran staff so I would anticipate quite a few more retirements here in the next couple of years," he said.

Board members approved the hiring of Natasha Burns, who hails from Three Rivers, as first grade teacher.

Board members heard an elementary school presentation from principal Melissa Lijewski.

Writing has been a focus under academic growth and achievement, with a county coach coming to the school once a month to work with them on a writing framework, and teachers reporting students have become "more independent writers." Restorative practices have also been worked on, with "community circles" being implemented by teachers with students that are structured around their classrooms' needs at the start of the day. Regarding PBIS at the school, the focus has been on Tier II and bullying.

Winter Diebels data, which shows students' foundational reading skills, revealed that 70 percent of students are meeting grade level expectations.

Fall to winter NWEA reading data shows that every single grade in the "optimal zone," meaning students are achieving at a higher level compared to national peers and growing at a higher rate than typical students. All grades are also performing at the 65th to 80th and most are clustered between the 70th to 85th percentile for growth. Math data shows all grade levels are performing at the 90th percentile for achievement, outperforming 90 percent of their peers across the country. Several grades are clustered at near the 90th percentile for growth. The overall school average is roughly at the 78th percentile for achievement and 74th for growth.

The school has held several family engagement nights, such as Title 1 and Spanish Night, STEAM Night, Family Fit Night and will be bringing back the PTO Carnival.

Diversity-related activities have increased, with fifth graders attending an assembly on the Native American Heritage of the Pokagon Band of Pottawatomi and doing martin Luther king, Jr. activities.

Regarding PBIS, students receive Bison tickets to meet those expectations and can earn prizes at a schoolwide assembly as well as earn class compliments for "doing the right thing" in the hallways and specials classes, with the chance to earn prizes.

Board members approved the proposal from GeoSurfaces for the Multiplex Field Replacement and Track Resurfacing in the amount of $1,339,258.00.

Finance director Pano Arvanitis said that it would be coming up for 13 years for the original football and soccer field.

There was discussion on possibly striking out New Buffalo and Bison and replacing it with Red Arrow Raiders in the end zones, while putting New Buffalo on both sidelines and eliminating the logo in the middle of the field. Bowen said this "honors New Buffalo but respects our merger" with River Valley as well. He said a conversation would be had with River Valley the following day.

Arvanitis said the project will be paid for by the general fund obligation bond and not be funded by taxpayers.

Board members approved the Multiplex Retrofit Lighting Proposal from Musco in the amount of $175,000.00. The lighting for the football and baseball field will have "very little lead-over," Arvanitis said. The system will also allow for the option of lights to flash to different colors and sync to uploaded songs.

Board members approved the bid for the district-wide IP Based Mass Notifications Platform from Moss in the amount of $357,386.60. Arvanitis said this is another bond project and is the final phase of the district's security and door integration, with digital clocks in every classroom and a flasher for emergencies, such as lock downs.

Board members approved the bid for the concrete bleacher pad from Gambino Concrete for $75,500.00. Arvanitis said that this will be for the area behind the baseball field, where currently there's some gravel, for the bleachers, which will be ADA compliant.

The Summer League's request to install and pay for lighting at the baseball field was approved. Bowen said the proposal was provided by Musco and was close to being $400,000 due to them going with a higher package for the lighting.

The elementary lighting project bid from AAES All Electric Sales for $24,057.85 was approved.

A Pokagon Grant Application by Food Service Director Susan Martinic, for the Summer Feeding Program was approved.

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

As I was laying in the hospital last week feeling like a train had run me over, I decided to finally give in.

I had resisted purchasing the Marquee network, the network that brings you the Chicago Cubs games, for six years.

Because I was going to be unable to get out of the house very often for a little while, and because the Cubs are my favorite team, I figured why not? Even though I had been able to watch all of my favorite teams games, for free, my entire life, things change and I guessed that I had been punishing myself more than the Cubs for the teams move to pay tv.

I still followed the Cubs religiously, reading about the games every morning, listening to them on the radio, and watching highlights on the news and YouTube. In my heart though, I knew that watching sporting events live, having no idea of the outcome, was the thing that drew me to sports in the first place.

When I started watching ballgames in the 1950's, instant replay was either not invented yet or was used sparingly (so long ago that I can't really remember), so you had to make sure you didn't blink or have to go to the bathroom when Ernie Banks was about to come to bat.

The next morning I would patiently wait for my father to finish reading the sports pages, then pour over the box score and figure out batting averages and earned run averages.

Early in grammar school, I was way ahead of my classmates in math and reading because of my love of sports.

Circling back to sporting events and pay TV, I began to wonder why the Cubs owners didn't pay much attention to history. There is no doubt in my mind that one of the biggest reasons that the Cubs are overwhelmingly more popular than the White Sox is that the Sox moved to pay tv for most of the 1980's and lost a generation of young fans to the Cubs, who were still available on free tv.

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, National Football League games used to be blacked out if the home stadium wasn't sold out. Since then, as football has become more and more popular while baseball has struggled, TV has played a big part.

Imagine if you couldn't watch your favorite team on Sundays in the fall, but you were able to see teams you had little or no interest in. It seems unbelievably obvious that fans want to see their home team.

Football understands this but baseball seems to just shut their eyes. This benefits New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and a couple of others while it cripples most of the other franchises and helps to dwindle their fan bases.

Hopefully, baseballs new collective bargaining agreement will address this situation.

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel said, "We learn from history that we never learn anything from history."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves.
— Carl Gustav Jung

Biggest Little Baseball Museum to hold speaker series

The Biggest Little Baseball Museum in Three Oaks has announced this season's lineup for its speaker series, which will each take place at High Noon.

On Saturday, May 2, will be "The Browns, Eddie Gaedel, and a Glove," at 3 North Elm Street at the Three Oaks Township Library. Presented by the staff of the Biggest Little Baseball Museum, the program will feature an overview of the Museum itself and introduce baseball's forgotten team, the St. Louis Browns, which includes the story of baseball's only batter with a 100% on base percentage (the Browns' Eddie Gaedel); and a wonderful story about a special 75-year-old baseball mitt.

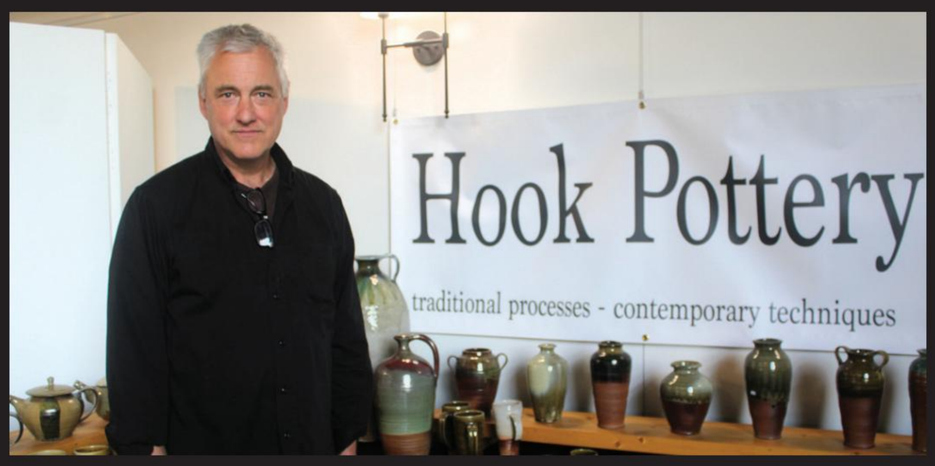
On Saturday June 6, will be "The Bird: Mark Fidrych and the Summer of 1976," at Three Oaks Township Library. This year marks the 50th anniversary of when Mark Fidrych took Detroit – and America by storm with his incredible pitching and eccentric behavior. Learn and reminisce about that crazy summer with guest presenter Brian Johnston. Brian Johnston lives in St. Joseph, Michigan, with his family. He is the author of three self-published books and is an Opinion Maker columnist for the Herald Palladium. His recent biography of baseball great Vada Pinson will be available this summer.

On Saturday July 4, Three Oaks Masonic Lodge, 14 ½ North Elm Street, above Alapash (a great opportunity to visit this historic Lodge, established in 1867), "The Shot Heard 'Round the World" will enlighten and entertain attendees about one of the greatest stories in baseball history that took place in the 1951 season. Learn about the "Miracle at Coogan's Bluff" and be reminded about the beauty of our National Pastime. This will be presented by the staff of the Biggest Little Baseball Museum.

On Saturday Aug. 1, Vickers Theatre, at 6 North Elm Street, will be"Return of the Clowns: Barnstorming Baseball Then and Now". Three Oaks' born Bill Heward is in a special position to share about the Indianapolis Clowns. The lanky right hander pitched for the Clowns in their final years, and wrote "Some are Called Clowns", describing his experience that was over 50 years ago. The Clowns have been reborn and are one of six teams competing in the new Banana Ball Championship League. During this season's spring training, Jesse Cole of the Savannah Bananas sought out Bill to share about the history of the Clowns. Bill spent quality time with the team, letting them know of the opportunity they must continue the legacy of the Clowns. Come and enjoy this special presentation. Dr. Heward is a Professor Emeritus in the College of Education and Human Ecology at Ohio State University. He was a member of River Valley's first high school baseball team, threw a no hitter in RV's opener and went on to pitch at Western Michigan University. His grandfather Ollie umpired many games for the Three Oaks Greens.

Admission is free and includes a complimentary box of Cracker Jacks. The Biggest Little Baseball Museum is a 501c3, and accepts donations of cash, new and used baseball books, as well as used baseballs and softballs. The Biggest Little Baseball Museum is in the middle of Three Oaks Magnificent Quarter Mile, in a room on the second floor of the historic Three Oaks Township Library at 3 North Elm Street. — **STAFF REPORTS**

Madeline Henry displays her mixed media work in the Firehouse Artist Studio



Jon Hook displays his pottery at Commune Market as part of Lubeznik Center for the Art's curated mini art fets

Amy Butts of Ladysmith Jewelry displays her jewelry and metals at Firehouse Artist Studio

Danny Hossler of Paw Paw Laserworks displays his bathymetric maps in The Pokagon Art Gallery

Charlotte Kayler works in the makerspace at Handmade Studio

Nancy Natow-Cassidy displays her acrylic paintings in Commune Market as part of the Lubeznik Center for the Arts' curated art fest

Michael Hedges displayed his oil paintings at Commune Market as part of Lubeznik Center for the Art's curated art fest.

Kristin Hosbein works on a flower oil painting in ARS Gallery

Art Attack celebrates 'All That Is Art'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

As tradition, residents and visitors traversed Red Arrow Highway and surrounding winding country roads to celebrate "All That Is Art" in the area during the annual Art Attack weekend, which took place Friday through Sunday, April 24-26.

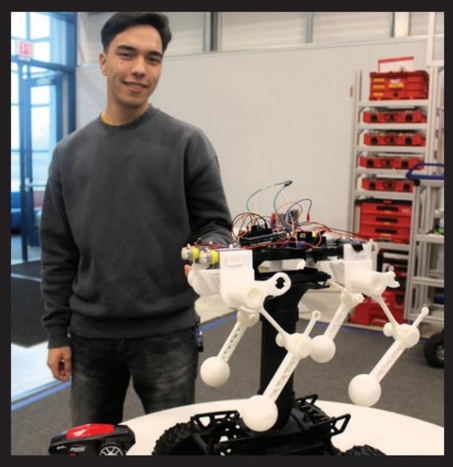
This year's event featured over 40 locations that featured a variety of art displays, which included paintings, jewelry, pottery, culinary arts, a demonstration on the production of handcrafted spirits, and displays of student STEAM projects. Art lovers also had the chance to interact with artists as well as try their hand at creating their own masterpieces.

On Saturday night, guests gathered at Section House in Sawyer for a Spring Fling, with a cash bar that benefited Neighbor by Neighbor in Union Pier.

The event, which was founded by Union Pier's Local Color Gallery owners Rita and Jennfier Cochran, is known to usher in springtime in the area.

Mary Abbott Hess and Bill Reynolds admire Happy sculpture at Fritz Olsen Fine Art and The Art Dog Studio

Members of Homemade Jam perform at Local Color Gallery



Tio Uras displays his robotic Toto in the NBAS STEAM Building

Martha Cares stands by her Silas Bear in bronze sculpture at Fritz Olsen Fine Art and The Art Dog Studio

Guests to Section House admire Matt Swenson's work

Guests admire a display of jewelry in the Firehouse Artist Studio

Jo Haberichter and Jeremy Rainwater stand by their award-winning Super Submersible ROV 2026 in the NBAS STEAM Building

Guests mingle at Section House

Angela Rice displays her work in oil pens at The Pokagon Art Gallery

Community invited to partake in 'Three Oaks Flag Project'

Stroll Three Oaks invites the village to take part in The Three Oaks Flag Project, a community art project honoring America's 250th anniversary and Flag Day.

The display will feature two large American flags, made entirely of local faces - neighbors, students, families and friends, all right there in the stripes.

The River Valley Kids Flag will start with the next generation. In partnership with River Valley Schools, elementary school students will help create a full American flag using their own photos. Red stripes, white stripes—each one built from student portraits, thoughtfully edited and pieced together. It's a flag made of school spirit - and a pretty good snapshot of the future. Participation is free for River Valley students.

The Community Flag is for everyone else. During a community photo day from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 14, at Commune + Market at 105 N. Elm Street in Three Oaks, neighbors can stop by, have their photo taken, and become part of the flag. Expect a relaxed afternoon, with a little music, some yard games, kids running around and adults catching up - the kind of gathering that feels like Three Oaks. There will be no tickets - just show up and be part of it. Once complete, both flags will make their debut at the Three Oaks Flag Day Parade this June.

It's one thing to watch a parade - it's another to see yourself in it.

The flags will continue to appear throughout Flag Day weekend and into the Fourth of July, popping up around town in places where people naturally gather.

Because that's the point - this isn't just something to look at. It's something to belong to.

"This project is about more than art—it's about who we are," said Melissa Francis, a Three Oaks resident with Keller Williams Realty. "Each face tells a story. Together, they remind us, our community is part of something bigger. I'm proud to help share what makes this place special."

For updates and event details, follow Stroll Three Oaks (www.strollthreeoaks.org) or keep an eye downtown.

Stroll Three Oaks is a community platform and nonprofit initiative designed to bring together events, businesses, and communication into one coordinated system.

Stroll Three Oaks manages the village's digital presence, supports and produces events, and creates tools that help people discover and spend more time downtown. The goal is simple: strengthen local business, increase visitation, and build a more connected, vibrant community year-round. — STAFF REPORTS

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A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

Hulk Hogan and His Merry Men

One of Hulk Hogan's famous quotes was "I fear no man, no beast or evil, brother." At six foot, seven inches tall, with oiled 'twenty-four inch pythons' biceps, I understood why he feared no man, no beast or evil.

He was followed by other wrestlers who appeared in Hulk Hogan's Rock 'n' Wrestling – Hillbilly Jim, The Iron Sheik, Nikolai Volkoff, Mr. Fuji, The Junkyard Dog, one of my favorite wrestlers, and Hulk's nemesis, "Rowdy" Roddy Piper.

Hulk towered over the other wrestlers. He had a checkered past with WWF. Vince McMahon Sr. didn't allow wrestlers to accept roles in television series or films, so Hulk was fired after accepting the role of Thunderlips in the 1982 film, Rocky III.

By 1983, all was forgiven. Hulk reentered WWF, and Hulkamania took the world by storm. I'd seen Hulk in matches on television. Seeing him in person was entirely different. He worked the production set as if he was working a Hollywood party.

When he came to me, and I was introduced as a writer, my right hand vanished as he wrapped his around it. He asked if I had written for Hulk Hogan's Rock 'n' Wrestling. I confessed I didn't, but that I was a fan of it. When he asked what I wrote, I was forced to tell this behemoth "Care Bears and Popples…"

Hulk snarled, "Care Bears?!" His eyes went wide and for a second I thought he was going to rip my head off. Then he relaxed, smiled a blinding smile and said, "My daughter loves the Care Bears! 'Caring and sharing'. That's what it's about, brother."

He moved on to greet and chat with DIC crew members. What a guy!

Getting to hang with WWF wrestlers had to be one of my best experiences in the children's television industry. I loved meeting many of my favorite wrestlers. The Iron Sheik was warm and welcoming. I got a full five minutes to chat with Junkyard Dog, one of my absolute favorite wrestlers. He let me playfully jangle his massive neck shackle, growling as I did, then cracking up as I 'quivered' with fear.

Captain Lou Albano was a hoot. When I asked how he got his nickname, Lou, who I'd write for when I'd write scripts for The Super Mario Bros.' Super Show, shared he was the captain of his football team at Archbishop Stepeniac High School. He went on to enjoy a sixteen-year wrestling career, but said being an 'evil' manager was his true calling and, I had a hunch, a lot more fun.

As the wrestlers started moving to their positions on the set I didn't see 'evil' Rowdy Roddy Piper coming toward me, and apparently he didn't see me. Two hundred and thirty pounds of kilt-wearing, sheer muscle all but knocked me off my feet. Fortunately, legendary ring announcer Mean Gene Okerlund was coming the other way and steadied me, immediately launching into a faux tirade against Piper, accusing the wrestler of assaulting a DIC staffer, "thus biting the very hand that feeds you!" This accusation was accompanied by a chorus of loud boos from the heroic 'face' wrestlers.

I knew it was in good fun, so I introduced myself to Piper, telling him, as we shook hands, that I was a big fan. Mean Gene Okerlund cautioned me against flattering Piper. Then the wrestlers took their spots on the set, ready to tape the live action segments. I was so pumped you would have thought I was a wrestler, too!

HOROSCOPE

APRIL 20-MAY 6, 2026

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

There will be a very unsettling vibe at home and with friends this week and you may not have a clear understanding of how to proceed with the obligations or commitments you have with them. The best course of action is to let go of needing to talk things out and just plan on doing things differently.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

It is time to make some formal maneuvers in the relationship department. Make things official if you truly want it or be ready to let it go. It's important to let people know where you stand and avoid being vague when making plans or getting together. Take the risk and let them know how you feel.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

This week it is important for you to be more professional with coworkers and honor a stricter code of ethics when it comes to your own personal performance. Let go of the idea that following social guidelines might limit your sense of freedom in some way. Look at it as treating people with respect and grace.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

There are things you love doing for and with people but there are things happening that is causing you to hold back and be more reserved or business like. This is the time to let go of the way you used to reward and interact with people and embrace a more business type image. It's time for a social image makeover.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

It's time to get your space looking it's best and feeling more stable. The energy is all about making updates and reinterpreting how things flow through the space. Move things around and even if you encounter difficulties, know that the energy is there for making adjustments and solving problems.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Let go of power struggles and having to have things a certain way now. It's important to make changes but it may not be clear as to what and who you should support. There is an uneasiness when it comes to helping people or joining in on things for the sake of upholding social rituals, now.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Your relationship situation will be difficult to understand and there will be some uncertainty about the future. The best course of action is to let go of preconceived plans and trajectories for your relationship or partner, and reinterpret where you two are headed and what the purpose of the connection is all about.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

It's time to start some health and beauty rituals and make them a priority. Hone in on feeling your best and letting go of the things that bring you down or create a toxic environment. It could be difficult and take a lot of hard work but the energy and cosmic flow is there preparing the way for you.

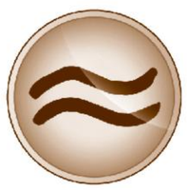
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

It's important to formalize your down time and make it a point to relax and reconnect with your inner world. Set time aside for meditating or doing things you love. Alone time is essential now for dealing with situations that are unclear or disappointing. Spend time by yourself and realign your heart chakra.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

There will be a lot of social rituals or formalities being performed now and you may not feel to certain about who is genuine and who is just going through the motions to get what they want from you. The best course of action is to help those that are in true state of need and let the rest fend for themselves.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Just because you have talked a situation out or planned a course of action it doesn't mean that's how it will go. What's works on paper and what actually works in the field doesn't always match. Be ready to make changes, reinterpret situations and revise plans; a crisis will help you unclutch and let go.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

It's important to be distinct and move beyond following the crowd. Avoid getting caught up in comparing yourself or trying to be like someone else. Stand up for what makes you different and celebrate it. Let go of meeting a standard or staying with a certain situation because of the money.

The greatest of follies is to sacrifice health for any other kind of happiness. — *Arthur Schopenhauer*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

				2			9	6
8								
				4				
6	9				4			
7					2			
	8			3		4	6	7
5	4			7	6		3	
3						6		2
9	7			8			5	

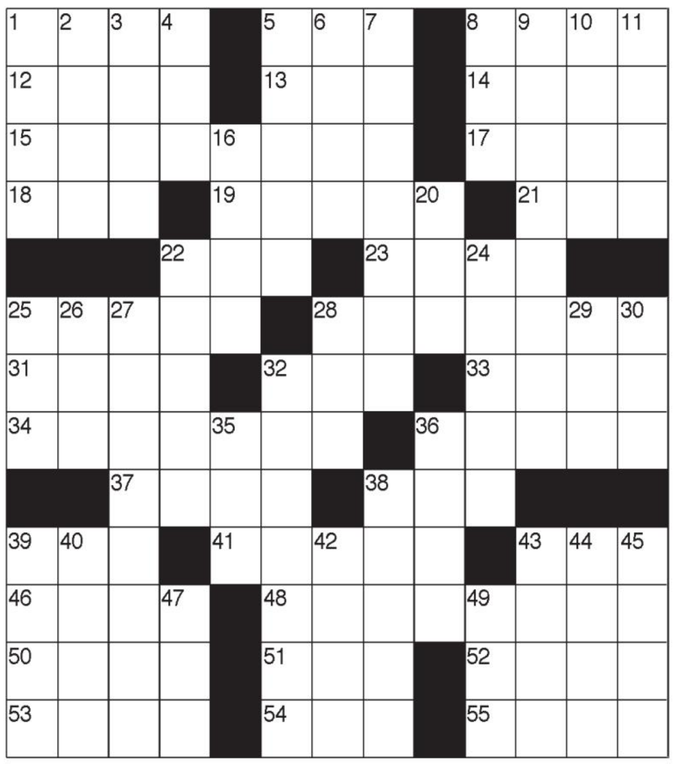
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Indian cuckoo
5 Amer. College of Physicians (abbr.)
8 Middle Eastern abbess
12 "Dies ____"
13 Guido's note (2 words)
14 Cat's cry
15 Extremely happy
17 Object of affection
18 Latitude (abbr.)
19 Open
21 Delirium tremens (abbr.)
22 Master of Landscape Architecture (abbr.)
23 Deteriorate
25 Sergeant fish
28 Family relative
31 Malay canoe
32 Pharmaceutical Chemist (abbr.)
33 Sicilian resort
34 Shrivel
36 Tacoma's sound
37 Rhine tributary
38 Garnet
39 Health maintenance organization (abbr.)
41 Rhone tributary
43 War Shipping Admin. (abbr.)
46 Brand name in electronics
48 Old World bird
50 Bird
51 Associate in Electrical Technology (abbr.)
52 Pen name of Charles Lamb
53 Father (Fr.)
54 Sp. article
55 Quintillionth (pref.)

DOWN

1 German port
2 Killer whale
3 Asia
4 Permit
5 Sicilian volcano
6 Paper fastener
7 Peaceful
8 Friend (Fr.)
9 Interfering
10 Dubious
11 Boring tools
16 Great (Ger.)
20 Snatch
22 Cat's cry
24 Lower intestines
25 Certified Public Accountant (abbr.)
26 Leftover table scrap
27 Sponge
28 Coy
29 Compass direction
30 Pistol
32 Lexical
35 Public Health Service (abbr.)
36 Noble
38 Small flies
39 Lock
40 Buffoon
42 Great Barrier island
43 Flag
44 Tizzy
45 Hermitic language
47 Dread
49 Grassland



NEW BUFFALO ANNOUNCES SCHOOL OF CHOICE OPENINGS

New Buffalo Area Schools is accepting applications for enrollment for those students who do not reside within the New Buffalo Area Schools' boundaries, pursuant to Section 105 of the State Aid Act, subject to available space.

Parent/legal guardians may identify building preferences; however, assignments will be based on available space.

If more students apply for enrollment than there are available slots, preference will first be given to siblings of students currently enrolled in the program based on random draw and then other applicants randomly selected.

Schools of Choice enrollment openings for 2026-2027 are kindergarten, first grade, second grade, third grade, fourth, fifth grade, sixth grade, seventh grade, eighth grade, ninth grade and 10th grade.

Application deadline is June 15, 2026.

The parent or legal guardian must complete the online application available at nbas.org under Student Resources, or by using the link below: www.app.informedk12.com/link_campaigns/application-for-schools-of-choice-or-tution-students?token=42jTS9RSVHx2gLLrvxkmVABT

The completed application must be received by the Superintendent's office no later than Monday, June 15, 2026.

You will be notified of acceptance in a timely manner, no later than June 30, 2026.

Questions regarding the Schools of Choice Program should be directed to the Superintendent's office at 269-469-6010 or dwysocki@nbas.org. —

STAFF REPORTS

TICKS ARE TARGETING FAMILIES.

The ticks that spread Lyme disease are tiny (often smaller than the head of a pin) but the problem of Lyme disease is big—and growing. There are 300,000 projected cases each year, and if left untreated, Lyme can lead to arthritis, facial paralysis, and even memory and concentration problems.

It's time for us to target Lyme disease.

That means checking for ticks when you've been outside and seeing a doctor if you experience the symptoms of Lyme disease, which can include joint pain, flu-like symptoms, fever, fatigue, or sometimes a bullseye-shaped rash. Set your sights on stopping Lyme disease.

Learn how you can target Lyme disease at TargetLyme.org

A message from the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation

STEVEN & ALEXANDRA COHEN FOUNDATION

Woman sentenced for embezzling from American Legion to gamble

BY STAN MADDUX

A La Porte woman will spend just a limited amount of time in jail as long as she pays back the over $90,000 she stole from an American Legion Post as their financial officer.

Natalee Stewart, 42, was sentenced April 23 to 78 days in the La Porte County Jail for Level 6 felony theft.

The remainder of her 832-day sentence will be served on probation as long as she pays the balance of her close to $62,000 debt.

The sentence handed down in La Porte Superior Court 1 followed the terms of a plea agreement.

As required by the guilty plea, Stewart paid $32,000 prior to being sentenced and was ordered to make payments of $1,500 a month until the balance is retired.

Failure to meet her financial commitments will mean spending the rest of her time on probation with the Indiana Department of Correction.

La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said the sentence negotiated with the defense reflected the desires of her victim.

"This is what they wanted. We agreed. So, everyone wins," he said.

Authorities said Stewart was a volunteer financial officer for the American Legion Skwiat Post #451 in Michigan City with access to accounts that included payroll.

She also performed bookkeeping and handled the finances of the organization.

For about a six-month period in 2024, authorities said she made over $90,000 in withdrawals from two separate accounts.

When questioned, Stewart allegedly told police she used the money to gamble, pay bills and for other expenses and intended to sell her home for money to pay back the funds.

Her arrest stemmed from a nearly one-month investigation that started when American Legion Commander Michael Livengood contacted Michigan City Police in December about fraudulent activity on multiple accounts belonging to the veterans' organization, according to court documents.

Authorities said Livengood implicated Stewart since she was the only authorized user of the accounts and produced more than 40 receipts from her withdrawals at Blue Chip Casino totaling more than $50,000 from April to November.

Stewart was elected the financial officer just several weeks before she began making the illegal withdrawals, police said.

Fagan said his office as it does in any criminal case asked the American Legion leadership how it wanted the allegations resolved and what mattered most to them was total reimbursement.

"To make the victims whole is to get the money back. If not, there are going to be consequences," he said.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE New Buffalo Times — SINCE 1942 —

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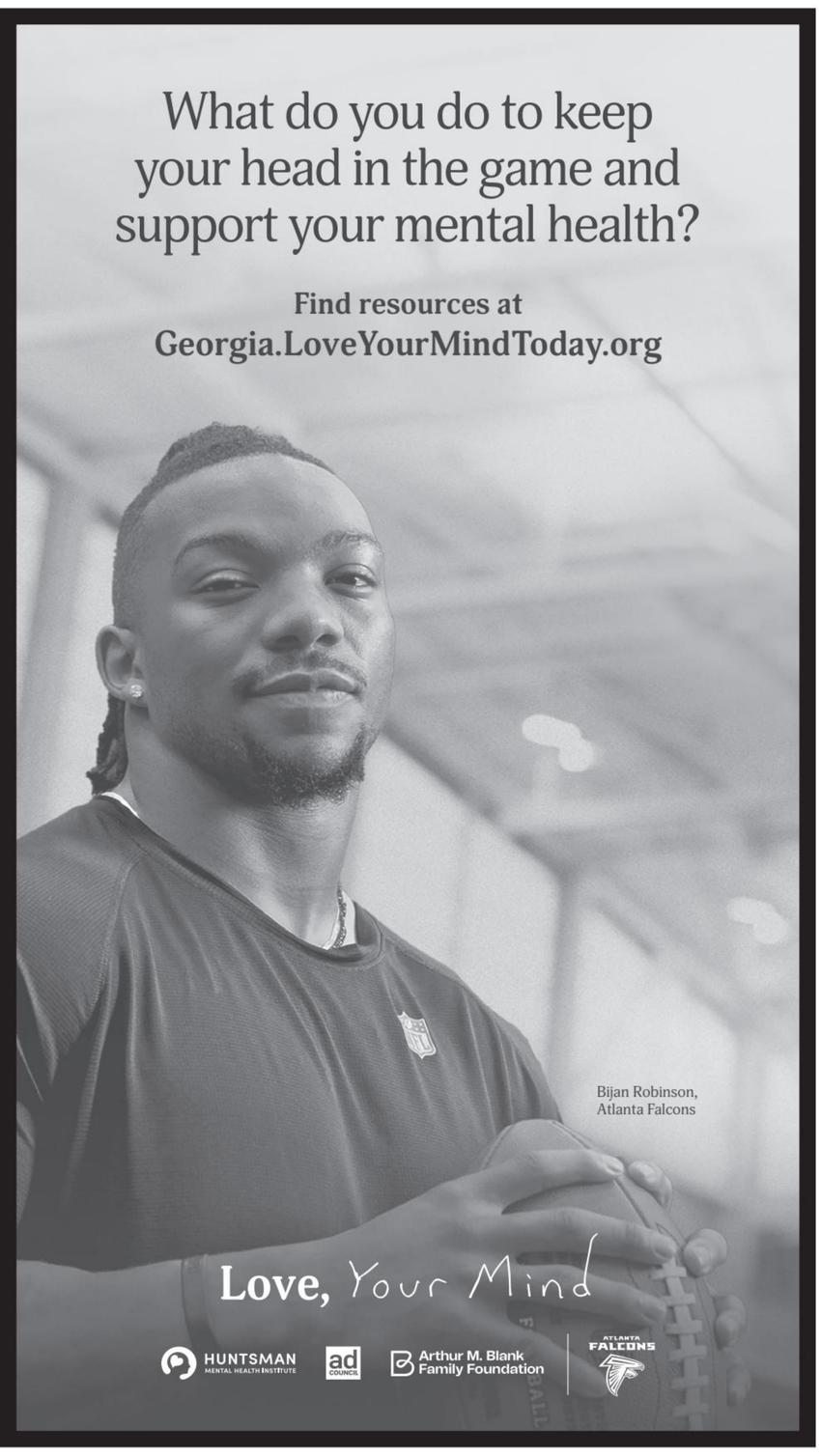
PUBLIC NOTICES

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Grand Beach will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2027 fiscal year budget on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 4:45 pm ET, before the regularly scheduled council meeting at 5:00 pm ET. The meeting will be held at the Village Hall at 48200 Perkins Blvd, Grand Beach, MI 49117

The full budget is available for public inspection in the Clerk's office.

KIMBERLY WOLNIK
CLERK-TREASURER
269-469-3141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To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

IT'S TICK SEASON

Getting bitten by a tick can cause numerous infections, one being the feared Lyme disease. The Lyme tick injects a bacteria called Borrelia burgdorferi that can cause many serious, and sometimes lifelong symptoms if not caught early.

The most well-known sign of being bitten by an infected Lyme tick is a rash that looks like a bull's eye. A round red patch that expands from the bite site. Although not everyone will get the bullseye, but can still have Lyme. Early symptoms can resemble a flu like feeling of chills, fever, headache, muscle and joint aches, swollen lymph nodes and fatigue. If untreated at this time, it can progress and lead to much more serious problems such as severe joint pain, swelling of joints, heart palpitations, nervous system issues like facial paralysis (Bells palsy), numbness, or problems with memory and concentration.

The poison can spread when an infected tick remains attached to the skin and feeds between 36 – 48 hours or more. Learn how to safely remove a tick and immediately wash the area with soap and water, and use a natural antibiotic at the site. Take these antibiotics internally as well. These can include colloidal silver, oregano and thyme, Japanese knotweed, black walnut, cats' claw and others. Do your research BEFORE you need it. Don't hesitate to see your healthcare practitioner if you start getting sick after a bite, especially if one is elderly.

Ticks are typically found in grassy, brushy or wooded areas. They can attach to people during any outdoor activities. Not all ticks carry the bacteria. Infection depends on local presence of infected wildlife and tick life stages. There are other diseases that ticks can carry too, so be proactive when going outdoors.

Use prevention tips such as wearing long sleeves and pants. Tuck pants into your socks and choose light colored clothing where you can easily spot the ticks. Do thorough tick checks after being outdoors. Pay attention to underarms, behind your ears, around the waist and back of the knees. Your pets can be a magnet to ticks, check them every time they are outside.

You can research on a YouTube to watch the correct way to remove a tick. Use fine tipped tweezers, grasping close to the skin and pulling straight out gently as to not leave the head behind. Immediately do your cleaning and start the natural antibiotics. Be very conscious of any symptoms described above over the next couple of weeks.

Early treatment is usually very effective. If people are unsure of being bitten, and begin to develop later stage Lyme disease, there are some blood tests today that can be taken to see if Lyme is in your system. Unexplained joint pain, shortness of breath, heart conditions, nervous system conditions and muscle weakness can all be signs of late state Lyme. There can of course be many other reasons for these symptoms, but it is a good one to have your doctor check first, before many other expensive and invasive testing.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK

MAX

This senior-ish pup will hit all your marks for a great best friend. Max is just over nine years old, neutered, a svelte 57 pounds, and loves everything. He's great in the car, on walks, in his crate, and with other older children and other dogs. Max know all his basic commands, and still loves learning new things and going on adventures. Treats are also a great plus. Make Max part of your home today..

AVAILABLE AT THE MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

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8	2	9	6	5	7	3	4	1
1	6	3	9	4	8	7	2	5
6	9	5	7	1	4	2	8	3
7	3	4	8	6	2	5	1	9
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5	4	2	1	7	6	9	3	8
3	1	8	4	9	5	6	7	2
9	7	6	2	8	3	1	5	4

K	O	E	L	■	A	C	P	■	A	M	M	A		
I	R	A	E	■	E	L	A	■	M	E	O	W		
E	C	S	T	A	T	I	C	■	I	D	O	L		
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C	O	B	I	A	■	S	I	B	L	I	N	G		
P	R	O	A	■	P	H	C	■	E	N	N	A		
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H	M	O	■	S	A	O	N	E	■	W	S	A		
A	I	W	A	■	S	T	A	R	L	I	N	G		
S	M	E	W	■	A	E	T	■	E	L	I	A		
P	E	R	E	■	L	A	S	■	A	T	T	O		

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A makerspace in back allows guests to create

Items from local artists are on display in the front

Handmade Studio debuts Sawyer location

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Visitors need only step through the doors of Handmade Studio to know that they've entered a space that's teeming with creativity.

Carin Weston and Ben Sass celebrated the grand reopening of their business in Sawyer during Art Attack Weekend, which took place April 24-26.

Reclaimed glass panels, which divide the makerspace from the front of the building, from a historic Benton Harbor building, table legs from a woodworker in New Buffalo, a rolling ladder in the back and other recycled and reused items from local craftspeople embellish the old-new space.

"It's been a super fun process – obviously, it's a gorgeous building, but it's just been a lot of work as well," Sass said.

In the back is the makerspace, which features a kiln, wheel, laser cutter and printing-making material. There's also a Risograph, which Weston said is "on the up and up with artist communities."

"It's very vibrant prints and it's a very hands-on printer, so it's very fun to make illustrations with so we've been doing workshops on that," Weston said.

"A part of that back space is to share with the community and be able to come and use the specialty tools so they don't have to spend a bunch of money buying specific equipment that we already have and can share here," Sass added.

The front half of the building is dedicated to the work of artists from the surrounding area as well as independent ones who are located further away. In addition to selling their work and having it on display, Sass said some teach classes that are "outside our mediums."

"The goal is to support local artists' work as well as give them an opportunity to teach their craft," he said.

Handmade Studio sells a variety of items to serve anyone's artistic needs, from painting equipment to printmaking, to artist storage to small batch art supplies. There're also stationery, paper and pens and pencils.

Several services are also offered, such as custom framing and printing services, from Risograph printing for artists to more traditional, fine art photo printing. Weston said she also does curated photo albums: Customers can drop off a flash drive, or she can scan any old film, from slides to old projector film. Customers can choose a Semikolon album, which is heirloom quality.

Ben Sass and Carin Weston in Handmade Studio's Sawyer space

Printmaking, collage and papermaking and cyanotype ones, which Sass said will be ideal for the courtyard out back in the summer, are some of the workshops that are offered.

After freelancing for more than 10 years, Sass and Weston said that they opened their first brick and mortar business in Commune Market in Three Oaks.

Before doing freelance design work, Sass was an architect in South Bend. Weston, who has a degree in art education, was a high school art teacher and did wedding photography and art on the side.

"It's nice to have all the things we do under one roof - we had a home studio, he's been framing things for long time, so it's nice to have a business front now," Weston said.

Sass said they'll always be grateful for Commune Market for serving as a launching pad for their new business venture and for the "amazing people" they've met there.

"I don't think we'd be where we are now without that - we're super grateful but super excited for this next step as well," he said.

Handmade Studio is located at 5857 Sawyer Road in Sawyer. For updated workshops and other information, visit http://handmade-studio.com or follow them on Facebook.

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